

Attorney Docket No. 130924.61101
Serial No. 09/827,256
Inventor: Empedocles
Paper dated January 3, 2006

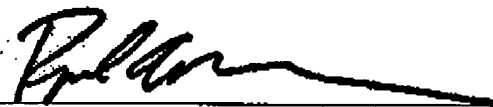
REMARKS

Applicants attorney would like to thank the Examiner for careful consideration of the pending application and allowance of claims 5, 34, 35, 37-42, 45, 47, and 53.

Claims 11, 24, 25, 27, 32, 48, and 54 stand objected to for lack of antecedent basis. In view of the amendments made above to claims 11, 25, 27, 32, 48 and 54, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objections.

It is believed that pending claims 5, 11, 24, 25, 27, 32, 34, 35, 37-42, 45, 47, 48, 53 and 54 are now in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0436 for any fees that may be due in connection with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Raymond A. Miller
Registration No. 42,891

Dated: January 3, 2006

Pepper Hamilton LLP
One Mellon Center
50th Floor
500 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.454.5000
412.281.0717 - facsimile